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The Wizard foresees year for the area

What will the year 1982 bring for the Carbondale area?

The *Carbondale Mirror* recently put that question to one of its computers, nicknamed The Wizard because of his keen knowledge and astute wisdom.

The Wizzard hesitated at first, trying, we believed, to feign an illness so that his reputation would not be ruined should any of his predictions for this new year fall short.

"Beep, beep, urrrr. Reenter question," he said in his short and choppy computer language.

We did so.

"Beep, beep, urrrr, beep. Malfunction with board No. KC-945893."

With that we tapped his video screen with a pencil eraser.

"Now computing," The Wizard replied.

"I do not forecast a particularly bright year for the Carbondale Area," he added after some long consideration of the question.

"But a light will shine from the city hall clock tower in 1982. This will be a highly symbolic sign for the residents.

"The old building itself will start looking good on the outside and people will be able to ask why anyone ever wanted to tear it down.

City hall changes

"Some changes will be made inside the building, but I don't want to go into that too much because I'm looking for a job there now and don't want to offend anybody. Afterall, I, The Wizard, am the only one capable of straightening out the city.

"Politically, I can see a new force in politics: the women of the city. They have only had a token voice before. Beep. Pretty soon they'll have more.

"Main Street will take on a new look on the westerly side between Salem Avenue and Park Place.

"That's the side of the street where the David A. Adams Cable Co. has bought the M&M Bank Building and the Riverdale Manufacturing Building. It will be a big improvement.

"There will be more street lights placed around the city. And, beep, that land on the West Side will be sold — after holding it for so many years.

"A supermarket in town will expand and the area will attract more industry in 1982.

"Beep, this is fun. Beep.

"Believe it or not, the industry will be a sizeable one, too.

"The viaduct will come down in 1982, but even humans know that will come true (unless the money runs out in '82).

"The garbage collection system will continue to plague the city, with things getting worse as the contract runs out.

"On the sports scene, Lakeland will do itself proud in football and the Chargers will score.

"In fact, in basketball, season 82-83, the Chargers will everyone please.

"Beep, I'm getting to be a poet, don't I know it.

"Health care concerns will come to the spotlight, with things back to the old ways. Beep.

Celebrity in town

"A famous celebrity will arrive in town for Pioneer Days. I'm happy about that. Any more than that I can not say.

"Beep. This is exhausting work. I'd rather pick the Super Bowl winner.

"Local firefighters will receive a crucial test of their skills during the year and they'll do well.

"A large donation will benefit the area and an area resident will be recognized for his (or her) achievements by peers throughout the country.

"People will flock to the area, lauding the surrounding countryside for its beauty, quietness.

"I, The Wizard, do declare that this all I can formulate for 1982 from the information gathered and given to me."

(Editor's note: The Wizard later printed a note warning that his predictions are the best that he can do and that he should not be held for any predictions which may be proven wrong by the end of the year.)